

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
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AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USNMR SHAPE BEL
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC

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BRUSSELS FOR USEEC
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, CY, US
SUBJECT: EXPECTATIONS OF U.S. INITIATIVE ON CYPRUS

REF: NICOSIA 1950

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1. IN PAST SEVERAL DAYS GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS HAS SPECULATED
EXTENSIVELY ON EXPECTATION THAT U.S. WILL UNDERTAKE NEW
INITIATIVE OR MEDIATORY ROLE IN CYPRUS PROBLEM IN WAKE OF
LIFTING OF ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY. THIS SPECULATION IS
BASED ON GOC INTERPRETATION OF LANGUAGE IN HOUSE AND
SENATE BILLS AS IMPOSING ON U.S., IN PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU'S
WORDS, "ENORMOUS RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS TOWARDS

CYPRUS AND THE AREA" (REFTEL). GOC SPOKESMAN HAS EMPHASIZED THIS LINE IN BRIEFING PRESS. IN AUG 4 SESSION, FOR EXAMPLE, SPOKESMAN ANALYZED LANGUAGE OF CONGRESSIONAL BILLS, CONCLUDED THAT CONGRESS HAD LINKED LIFTING EMBARGO TO JUST SETTLEMENT OF CYPRUS ISSUE, AND SAID GOC WOULD "CAPITALIZE UPON POSITIVE ELEMENTS OF THE CONGRESS DECISION." SPOKESMAN ALSO TOOK NOTE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT THAT U.S. WOULD OPPOSE ANY ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE CYPRUS PROBLEM BY FORCE.

2. DRAWING ON THESE AND OTHER SOURCES, GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS HAS UNANIMOUSLY CONCLUDED THAT ANEW U.S. INITIATIVE IS IN THE OFFING. EDITORIAL ATTITUDES TOWARD SUCH AN INITIATIVE, HOWEVER, DIFFER AMONG PAPERS ACCORDING TO THEIR IDEOLOGICAL BENT. LEFTIST PAPERS CONSIDER ANY U.S. INITIATIVE OR MEDITORY ROLE INADMISSIBLE AND URGE GOC TO REJECT IT. RIGHTIST PAPERS, WHILE RAISING DOUBTS ABOUT U.S. DEPENDABILITY IN LIGHT OF LIFTING EMBARGO, EXPRESS BELIEF THAT ANY NEW U.S. INITIATIVE SHOULD NOT BE REJECTED. IN THIS VEIN, DAILY AGON EDITORIALIZED AUG 8 THAT CYPRIOTS DO NOT HAVE MUCH CONFIDENCE IN AMERICANS BECAUSE OF PAST EXPERIENCE BUT SHOULD GIVE THEM ONE LAST OPPORTUNITY; PAPER SAID U.S. ROLE SHOULD BE TO STRENGTHEN UN SECRETARY GENERAL. CONTINUING ALONG THIS LINE FOLLOWING DAY, AGON WROTE THAT ONLY WAY PRESENT DEADLOCK BETWEEN TWO SIDES CAN BE BROKEN IS FOR SECRETARY GENERAL TO COME FORWARD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH A FORMULA OF HIS OWN FOR RESUMING TALKS AND, "IF NEED BE, ASK FOR THE CONTRIBUTION OF THOSE COUNTRIES HE THINKS CAN HELP HIM."

3. COMMENT. GOC'S EMPHASIS ON POSITIVE ELEMENTS OF CONGRESSIONAL BILLS TO LIFT EMBARGO SERVES THREE PURPOSES: IT HELPS DAMPEN PUBLIC REACTION TO LIFTING EMBARGO, IT GIVES IMPRESSION THAT GOC HAS SALVAGED CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT, AND IT KEEPS ALIVE IDEA OF U.S. MORAL OBLIGATION TO HELP FUND JUST SOLUTION TO CYPRUS PROBLEM. GOC LINE IS ALSO RAISING POPULAR EXPECTATIONS OF A STRONG U.S. INITIATIVE TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM. AGON'S LINKING OF U.S. ROLE TO EFFORTS BY SECRETARY GENERAL IS INTERESTING IN THAT IT REFLECTS A SHIFT OF EMPHASIS AWAY FROM NARROW SCOPE OF PRESSURES ON TURKEY TO MORE POSITIVE APPROACH OF FINDING FORMULA TO BREAK IMPASSE. EAVES

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